

**SOUTH LIMESTONE HOSPITAL DISTRICT
LIMESTONE MEDICAL CENTER
701 McCLINTIC, GROESBECK, TX 76642**

MINUTES

March 25, 2025

On this 25th day of March, 2025 the Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District convened at the regular meeting place of said District. The meeting, open to the public, and notice of said Board in said District giving the date, place and subject thereof, has been posted as described by Article 6252-17, Section 3A,V.A.T.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Danny Hewitt
Kent Wilson
Glenda O'Neal
Arnold Gray
Christina Lockhart

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tyrell Hobbs

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Price
Michael Williams
Pam Armstrong
Natasha Noel
Ashley Carroll
Shelton Chapman
Anthony Cumbie
Leeann Freeman
Jennifer Haynie
Misty Hutchison
Emily Jones
Brandy Kennedy

Michelle Mullinnix
Adrianne Rettig
Linda Rojas
Shandy Samaniego
Candy Seals
Mike Thompson
Hope Wallace
Julie Wilson
Jean Wragge
Robert York
Cathy Knouse

CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISH QUORUM AND EXCUSE ABSENTEES

Mr. Danny Hewitt called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

INVOCATION

Mr. Larry Price offered the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

Those present recited the Pledge to the Texas flag.

COMMENTS FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS

There were no concerned citizens in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Shelton Chapman wrote a note of appreciation for the expressions of sympathy that were conveyed on the passing of his brother.

Ms. Ellen Martin, Director of Safety, Rural and Community Health Institute/Texas A&M Health emailed to convey her coworker's appreciation for the attentive care that her mother received in the Limestone Medical Center Emergency Department on Saturday, February 22, 2025 after she fell and broke her ankle. The patient's daughter works with the Patient Safety Organization and is also a nurse. She was comforted to be assured that her mother received excellent care at LMC and wanted to express her appreciation for the ED team and physician.

Ms. Adreanne Dugger, Integrated Health Director, with Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network sent an email to Mr. Price. She shadowed at Family Medicine Center, Kosse Community Health Clinic and Rettig Family Health Clinic the first week of March. This was her first experience with rural providers and she stated that she was touched by the service and care that the providers show to patients.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Board minutes, Accounts Receivable report, Compliance report, Family Medicine Center report, Infectious Disease report, Kosse Community Health Clinic report, Marketing report, Nursing report, Patient Safety/Risk Management/Workplace Violence Committee minutes, Physician Credentialing Committee minutes, Plant Operations report, Rettig Family Health Care report, Rucker Clinic report and Inservice were presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Glenda O'Neal, seconded by Mr. Arnold Gray and carried to approve the consent agenda.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NEWLY CREATED AND REQUESTED CHANGES TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Emergency Department/Trauma Level IV

There are no changes to the Emergency Department/Trauma Level IV policies and procedures.

HIPAA Security

There are no changes to the HIPAA Security policies and procedures.

IT/PACS

There are no changes to the IT/PACS policies and procedures.

Kosse Community Health Clinic

There are no changes to the Kosse Community Health Clinic policies and procedures

Nursing

There are no changes to the Nursing Department policies and procedures.

There are no changes to the existing policies and procedures and the motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the existing policies and procedures as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Christina Lockhart and approved.

QUALITY, RISK AND REGULATORY DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The March 12, 2025 minutes of the Quality Improvement Committee were presented and reviewed. Staff members continue to convert all policies and procedures to a searchable format. The ultimate goal is for all employees to have online access to all facility policies. Efforts continue to recruit community members to participate in the Patient Family Engagement Committee. Wellvana has purchased the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) from CVS. This is a smaller company with more focus on the ACO. The directors reviewed the departmental reports.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESETTING AND RESEALING WINDOWS

On Thursday, March 6, 2025, a contractor came out to look at the Hospital windows that require repair. There are 20 windows in the Hospital that leak when it rains. The leaks in the windows in the chief executive officer's office have caused considerable damage to the sheet rock that will have to be replaced. The window pans are two pieces and have pulled apart. The windows in the Board Room and certain windows in the Business Office, Respiratory Therapy, Specialty Clinic and Emergency Department require weather stripping and resealing. Rocket Glass & Mirror, Inc. has submitted a bid for the resetting and resealing of these windows for \$24,716.61. Rocket Glass & Mirror previously reset and resealed the windows that were leaking in the dining room. The motion was made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Kent Wilson and carried to approve the Rocket Glass & Mirror bid to reset and reseal the leaking Hospital windows for \$24,716.61.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HOSPITAL WATER SOFTENING SYSTEM

There have been issues reported with the endoscope lenses due to excessively high hard water. The remedy for these issues would be to soften the water. Ice machines and the boilers that are utilized also experience performance issues due to the hard water. Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC has submitted a bid for the Vantage PTC facility wide water softening system for \$11,439 plus freight for \$516.04 and the total amount of \$11,955.04. It is being proposed that the filtration system would be installed in the boiler room. Once the system is installed, a service contract will be in place for regular system maintenance. The motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mrs. O'Neal and carried to approve the Evoqua Water Technologies bid for the facility wide water softening system for \$11,955.04.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Williams presented the Financial Report for the month ending February 28, 2025. Total inpatient revenues for the month of February were \$186,324.87 and the amount budgeted was \$329,757 which is 43.50% less than budget. The prior year inpatient revenues were \$304,110.81. Swingbed revenues for the month of February were \$259,836.19 and the amount budgeted was \$271,733 which is 4.38% less than budget. The prior year Swingbed revenues were \$138,822.87. Outpatient revenues for the month of February were \$5,041,022.84 and the amount budgeted was \$6,217,014 which is 18.92% less than budget. The prior year outpatient revenues were \$5,920,874.82. The total revenues for the month of February were \$7,293,683.18 and the amount budgeted was \$8,055,739 which is 9.46% less than budget. The prior year total revenues were \$7,910,102.25. Total revenue deductions for the month of February were \$3,785,502.05 and the amount budgeted was \$4,583,213 which is 17.41% less than budget. The prior year deductions from revenue were \$4,145,515.87. Expenses for the month of February were \$2,368,302.85 and the amount budgeted was \$2,635,518 which is 10.14% less than budget. The prior year expenses were \$2,372,607.33. The actual net operating profit for the month of February was \$1,139,878.28 and the amount of \$837,008 was budgeted which is 36.18% more than budget. The prior year net operating profit was \$1,391,979.05. The special item affecting the profit and loss is the uncompensated care/UC receipt of \$56,244. The net profit without the special item is \$1,083,634.28. A report of collections and expenses reflects that in the past twelve months collections total \$28,840,044.28 and expenses total \$30,106,074.84 and that 95.79% of Hospital expenses are covered by collections. The directors reviewed the most recent Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) report.

LMC FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Price reported that the LMC Foundation members met on Monday, March 17, 2025. There was discussion concerning the upcoming fundraiser. Raffle tickets for a \$2,500 cruise voucher are now available for sale. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The February 340B profit was \$62,964.20 and the inpatient split billing savings were \$10,719.

The Hospital has received \$944.13 from Texas Hospital Insurance Exchange (THIE) as a distribution of subscriber refunds for 2024. THIE is celebrating its 50th year anniversary. Since 2011, the Hospital has received \$50,039.53 in surplus refunds.

The Hospital received \$1,992.57 through affiliation with Alliant Purchasing, LLC. This check is the Hospital's 2024 calendar year share for group purchasing organization participation.

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, management was notified that an epidemiologist from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) would be visiting on Friday, February 14, 2025 for a non-regulatory visit. The focus of the visit was to discuss ways that DSHS can assist with improving infection control practices and to receive feedback and suggestions. That meeting was postponed and rescheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025. With the outbreak of measles, that visit has been postponed and management is not certain when that will be rescheduled.

Management has requested measles immunization records from employees in response to the measles outbreak. Laboratory staff began drawing titers for clinical staff that did not have a current immunization record on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

In 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs to encourage eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAH) to adopt, implement, upgrade and demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT). To continue a commitment to promoting and prioritizing interoperability and exchange of health care data, CMS renamed the EHR Incentive Programs to the Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs in April 2018. This change moved the programs beyond the existing requirements of meaningful use to a new phase of EHR measurement with an increased focus on interoperability and improving patient access to health information. Beginning in calendar year 2022, the Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program ended. The program is currently known as the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program for eligible hospitals and CAHs. The Hospital is required to report on four scored objectives and measures: electronic prescribing, health information exchange, provider to patient exchange and public health and clinical data exchange. In addition, there is the requirement to report on the Protect Patient Health Information objective: security risk analysis measure and safety assurance factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) guides measure. CMS continues to implement a performance-based scoring methodology. Each measure contributes to the total Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Score. A minimum of 60 points is required to satisfy the scoring requirement and LMC's final score was 90. This is attributed to the hard work of Ms. Emily Jones and Larry Price recognized her for the successful completion/submission of Promoting Interoperability for fiscal year 2024. Mr. Price stated that this is a considerable workload and Ms. Jones does a good job making sure that Limestone Medical Center is complying with the CMS requirements.

The Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals will host the 2025 TORCH Spring Conference and Trade Show April 14-17, 2025 at Loews Arlington Hotel in Arlington. The directors are invited to attend the conference luncheon on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Directors interested in attending were requested to notify Mr. Price to order tickets.

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Mr. Michael Williams and Mr. Price opened a Farmers State Bank checking account for the new nursing home in Corsicana. This is one of two nursing homes presented to the Board of Directors on Tuesday, November 26, 2025 that are currently owned by City of Ennis. Under the current management, the nursing home is named Epic Nursing & Rehabilitation. With the change of ownership, the name is being changed to Avir at Corsicana. The change of ownership will become effective Sunday, June 1, 2025. Change of ownership documents for second nursing home discussed, The Brazos of Waco in Waco, are being assembled at this time as well as St. Joseph's Care Center in McGregor.

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, Mr. Braden Reese, Strategic Account Manager, Alliant Purchasing, visited the Hospital and presented the Hospital with the Alliant Purchasing 2024 Supply Chain Excellence Committed Member award.

Mr. Tim O'Neal, Chief Operating Officer, Parkview Regional Hospital, met with Mr. Price on Friday, March 21, 2025. They discussed opportunities for the facilities to collaborate.

A patient backed into one of the bollards in front of Family Medicine Center on Friday, March 21, 2025. The patient will reimburse the Hospital for the damaged bollard.

Management has submitted an application for the Texas Department of Agriculture Capital Improvement Program. The maximum award is \$100,000 and grant funds are being requested to purchase a heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit (HVAC) for the Emergency Medical Services building. The quote to purchase the HVAC unit is \$168,000.

Mr. Price is continuing to communicate with the Aval-Na'Ree Green, M.D. concerning the Hospital's House Call Program. Dr. Green will be meeting with Mr. Price on Friday, March 28, 2025 to discuss the House Call Program medical director position. Dr. Green currently practices with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Temple and she specializes in geriatrics. Mr. Price anticipates that Dr. Green will assume this role on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Christian Jacobsen, M.D. is currently being credentialed. He will begin working at Rettig Family Health Care on Friday, August 1, 2025. Emily Wagner, M.D. will begin working at Family Medicine Center on Monday, September 1, 2025. Management is currently recruiting for a additional midlevel provider to work at Kosse Community Health Clinic.

Mr. Gray inquired if there has been an update concerning the opening of Limestone County Dialysis Center. Mr. Price responded by stating that there has been no additional news since he was informed that Kidney 360 has hired a consulting firm to ensure regulatory compliance.

Mr. Gray inquired if there has been an update concerning the expansion of the Hospital. Mr. Price responded by stating that the renovation of the building located at 621 McClinic Drive has been completed and that Clinical Informatics and Medical Records Department staff have relocated to this building. The Laboratory renovations are almost complete. There is one cabinet to be removed and there is flooring to be redone. The new instruments are being calibrated. This process involves correlating three different instruments. Mr. Price and Mr. Robert York are reviewing Ramtech Building Systems floorplans for the possible expansion of the Wound Care Clinic and outpatient Physical Therapy. Lott Brothers Construction Company is familiar with the Hospital and consulted during the construction mediation process. Mr. Gray mentioned that the nursing floor was constructed with the potential for a double V renovation. Mr. Price stated that Lott Brothers Construction Company representatives would be a consulting resource concerning expansion of the Hospital building. It is anticipated the representatives from Ramtech Building Systems and Lott Brothers Construction Company will attend the TORCH Spring Conference and Trade Show.

Mr. Gray raised a question concerning the possibility of Limestone Medical Center providing lifeline screenings with Mr. Price responding that the Hospital provides in depth studies rather than limited studies. Mrs. Jennifer Haynie stated that patients could request that their provider order screenings that are approved by their insurance plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code “Consultation with Attorney.”

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code “Deliberation Regarding Real Property.”

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code “Personnel Matters.”

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.085 of the Texas Government Code “Governing Board of Certain Providers of Health Care Services.”

SETTING OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of South Limestone Hospital District Board of Directors was set for Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hospital’s Board Room.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

_____/s/
Danny Hewitt
President